

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JGDAY/BR

APPROVED BY EUR:LBLAINGE;

P:PMARTINEZ

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273762

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EAID, GR, US

SUBJECT:CALL BY GREEK AMBASSADOR ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BITSIOS, ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON SISCO NOVEMBER 17 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER EFFORT IN HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO ELIMINATE PROVISION FOR GRANT MILITARY AID TO GREECE. ALEXANDRAKIS STRESSED THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY ECONOMICALLY BUT ALSO PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AND BITSIOS WANTED HIS CONCERN CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY, WHOM HE HOPES TO SEE IN BRUSSELS.

2. IN RESPONSE, SISCO INDICATED THAT WE, TOO, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THIS EFFORT BY THE COMMITTEE AND THAT IT IS OUR STRONG DESIRE TO HAVE CONGRESS APPROVE OUR COMPLETE
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SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR GREECE, INCLUDING MAP. WE

ARE, HOWEVER, UP AGAINST TWO STRONG CURRENTS IN CONGRESS, I.E., OPPOSITION ACROSS THE BOARD TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND INTEREST IN PHASING OUT OR TERMINATING COMPLETELY MAP. IN THE CASE OF GREECE, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE DECISION OF THE PAPADOPOULOS GOVERNMENT IN 1973 TO TERMINATE MAP FOR GREECE AND BY THE VIEW OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT OUR PROPOSAL FOR MAP FOR GREECE IN FY 1976 WOULD CONSTITUTE A NEW PROGRAM. WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A MAJOR

EFFORT TO GET THROUGH ALL OUR PROPOSALS FOR GREECE, AND WE HOPE WE WILL HAVE FRIENDS AND ALLIES ON THE HILL IN OUR EFFORT. SISCO STRESSED THAT WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PERSUADING THE COMMITTEE TO RESTORE THE PROVISION ON MAP.

3. FYI: COMMITTEE MARKED UP THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL TO ELIMINATE MAP FOR BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE. EFFORT BY CERTAIN MEMBERS TO REINSTATE MAP PROVISION FAILED IN NOVEMBER 18 VOTE. COMMITTEE VOTE ON FULL BILL IS NOT LIKELY UNTIL AFTER THANKSGIVING RECESS BEGINNING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, AND VOTE BY FULL HOUSE MAY NOT COME UNTIL JANUARY. KISSINGER

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